Opening up of L.P.G. Agencies Orissa

*535. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity of LPG in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to open new LPG agencies in that State ;

(c) whether places have been identified for the location of LPG agencies in the state ;

(d) if so, whether any such place has been identified in Keonjhar district ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) The demand of existing customers of LPG in Orissa is being met by and large in full.

(b) and (c) Subject to economic viability and product availability, locations having population of 20,000 and above are included in the Marketing Plan for LPG, in a phased manner. To meet the growing demand for LPG, six locations for setting up of LPG distributorships have been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan 1992—94 for Orissa.

(d) No location of the Keonjhar district has been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan.

(e) Does not arise.

National Highways in Gujarat

*536. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of National Highways covering Gujarat State;

(b) the stretches of National Highways in the State which have been identified as prone to damges due to floods and cyclone ; and

(c) the steps/measures taken to protect the same from damage by natural calamities ?,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) 1631 km including 93 km long Ahmedabad Vadodara Expressway which is under construction.

(b) and (c) No such stretches have been identified. However, National Highways in Gujarat damaged due to floods and other natural calamities are repaired and maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available funds.

Sealing of Blood Banks involved in selling infected Blood

*537. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that recently in Amritsar, the District Administration had sealed the premises of six private blood banks following reports about one of them having sold blood infected with HIV virus to a patient undergoing treatment at a private hospital ;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to seal such blood banks elsewhere in the county; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Four

blood Banks and two retail outlets in Amritsar were sealed by the local police on the complaint that HIV infected blood was supplied to a patient undergoing treatment in a private hospital.

(b) and (c) Whenever such incidents are reported, immediate action is initiated under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetic Act and Rules by the State Licensing authorities. The Police also register cases and take action where a cognizable offence appears to have been committed.

Newsitem regarding faulty AIDS Test Kits

*538. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAMAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news report apearing in the Pioneer of April, 6, 1994 under the caption "Faulty AIDS test kits cause scare, agony";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard ;

(c) what are the details of AIDS Surveillance Centres functioning in the country;

(d) whether all these centres have been provided with complete kits and other testing equipment, if not, what are the reasons therefor ;

(e) what steps are taken to ensure the functional reliability of these kits; and

(f) what are the details of instructions issued by Government for the guidance of the blood banks, doctors and hospitals as to how to verify the test of blood units collected from a donor with positive results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) HIV testing kits are procured through W.H.O. Certain complaints were received about the quality of a particular type of kits supplied by W.H.O. A sub-committee appointed to look into this found substance in the complaints. The unused HIV testing kits are being returned. Further procurement of that Particular type of kits has also been kept in abeyance.

(c) A list is annexed as statement. (*See* below)

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) W.H.O. usually procures testing kits only after careful evaluation. The technical Advisory Committee under the Government has also laid down the minimum acceptable norms relating to specificity and sensitivity of such kits. These norms are kept in view by W.H.O. while procuring such kits for India.

(f) Government have laid down that for the purpose of blood screening, a single test for reactivity with an ELISA or simple or Rapid test kit is adequate. If the test results indicate reaction, the blood is to be discarded without any further testing.